

Connecticut General Assembly
The Energy and Technology Committee

March 15, 2011

Raised House Bill No. 6592, AAC Concerning the Operations of the Department of Public Utility Control

Testimony of Dominion Retail, Inc.

My name is William Barkas, and I am Manager of State Government Relations for Dominion Retail, Inc. My company is a licensed retail electric supplier with more than 770,000 electric customers in nine states, including about 80,000 small mass market customers in Connecticut together with our business partner, Levco Energy. Overall, we serve more than 2.1 million retail customers in 12 states.

HB 6592

We have concerns about this bill that cause us to oppose it. First, Section 15 (c) purports to allow electric suppliers to provide direct billing and collections services for customers with a demand of not less 100kW but certain restrictions apply. Unlike similar language in SB 1, the customer of direct billing would not receive a credit on their bill from the electric distribution company for not receiving utility service yet would still be paying for it through distribution rates. Additionally, a supplier providing direct billing service would be prohibited from terminating a customer for non-payment. This action is anti-competitive and would put a supplier at a severe disadvantage versus the incumbent utility that does have the right to terminate and disconnect a non-paying customer.

Section 16 of the bill contains consumer protection provisions similar to those also found in SB 1. We recommend that if this bill is to be approved, that it at least include in subsection (f) statutory language that would also make it applicable to multi-level marketers (MLM) as well.